

the railroad cut and you held up your light so bright and called me to come, then I started to come to you but before I came close enough for you to see me your light went out. Oh! if you had only kept your light burning a little longer! I would have come to you, and I would not now be frozen and torn by the briars. But your light went out and I was left in the dark."

How often this story is repeated in the spiritual world! How many a person, crazed by satan's temptations, has become dissatisfied with the home at Jesus' feet and been led far away into the darkness of sin.

And when their loved ones try to bring them back home to God, they for a while turn away from the light, but when the Christian holds his light high above his head and lovingly calls the sinner to come to the light and wander in the darkness no more, then he heeds the call. He sees the contrast. The darkness of sin, the thorns of a guilty conscience and the coldness of a heartless world are seen in all their terror, and the beauty of a holy life, peace with God, and blessed communion and fellowship of His children appeals to his better self and he says, "I, too, may partake of this light. I will arise and go to him and allow him to guide me home where I may be sheltered in God's love."

So long as he does the will of the Father, every Christian is a beacon light guiding souls safely home. How important that we faithfully keep the light burning! One misstep, one sin and the light that is in us becomes darkness, Luke 11:35, and before the sin is forgiven and we again are filled with light, the souls we were leading are again lost in darkness, maybe never to be found and if they are saved it will only be when they have received many scars from satan. Oh! may we never hear the words, "your light went out and I was left in the dark."

#### To Make a Church Prosper

Christian Advocate.

Why should there be a decaying church in the world? There is a sure way of prosperity. It has never failed, and never can. A few simple rules observed by all the members of any church will insure good days. If the church is decaying, the decay will soon be arrested. If it is standing still, it will soon begin to grow. If it is already flourishing, it will grow more rapidly.

1. Attend all the services regularly.
2. If it rains or snow, make a special effort to go.
3. Never miss a prayer meeting needlessly.
4. Invite some one else to go every week.
5. Take part in the meetings. Be ready always to give a reason for the hope that is in you with meekness and fear, and to speak well of Christ and the Church.
6. Think of the services thru the week, speak of them to others, and pray that they may be attended with the divine blessing.
7. Pray for each member so far as you may know them, especially for the sick and poor.

8. Pray for the pastor. His usefulness will be greatly increased by the daily prayers of all the people. His preaching will improve wonderfully under such conditions.

9. Note the absence of members, not to criticise or find fault, but to show them proper attention in case they are sick, to encourage them if they are cast down, to restore them if they are wandering.

10. Speak to strangers, and invite them to come again.

11. Accept gladly any work assigned you, but never show a spirit of envy when others are promoted in the church.

12. Never encourage strife, but be a peacemaker.

13. Never speak of the faults of others to your neighbors, and never to those who have made mistakes, unless it be for the purpose of correcting them, and then be sure to do it in love.

14. Give cheerfully, according to your ability.

15. If able, take a Church paper.

16. If the pastor or any one else is struggling under a heavy load, take hold and help.

17. Never insist on having your own way against the majority, and never insist on overriding a minority with careless indifference.

18. Make some unconverted soul a special subject of daily prayer. Persevere in prayer, together with judicious effort, until that one shall be brought to Christ. Then begin at once to bring another in the same way by prayer and personal effort.

If we knew that such simple rules as these would give us a good harvest, or insure physical health, or make us rich, as well as we know that they will make the church prosper, would we not all begin at once to observe them? These things we can all do. No special talent is required. By so doing ye shall bear much fruit?

#### PRAYER MEETING TOPICS

##### "MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE"

##### I Marriage.

1. It is an honorable estate, Heb. 13:4.
2. No true Christian will forbid marriage, I Tim. 4:1-3.
3. Christians should marry only Christians I Cor. 7:39. a. Thus, marriage is a sacred relation not to be assumed lightly, without thought, and prayer for God's guidance. b. Some people who did not consult God in the matter wonder why they didn't get congenial companions. No wonder! Don't marry to reform your husband, or wife.

##### II Divorce

1. It is allowed by Christ for one cause only. Matt 5:31, 32.
2. The remarriage of divorced persons is not allowed. Matt. 19:39; Luke 16:18; I Cor. 7:10, 11, 39; Rom 7:13; Mk 10:2, 12. a. Thus it appears that Christ and the Apostles did not allow even the innocent party to marry again. b. Those who break these laws are guilty of adultery. I Cor. 6:9, 10. c. Two chief causes of divorce are (1) the ease of obtaining a divorce today, and (2) the lightness with which this sacred relation is entered. Let us obey God in this. J. L. GILLIN.

There is a vast difference between reading the Bible to preach it and reading the Bible to practice it.—*Philips*.

## The Mission Field

### Washington Mission Vine Fund

I am requested by our Missionary Society to send to the EVANGELIST a statement of amount of funds received for our church building, from the "Vine"; also to extend our hearty thanks to those who responded to the call.

The total amount received is \$98 85. We did not like to resort to this plan to raise money, but the funds seemed to grow so slowly, and we thought it no harm to try it.

We have a splendid church property in view now, the cost of which would be \$5,700, all complete. The ground alone is worth at least \$4000, splendid location. Brethren, there is a bargain in this property, and we should take advantage of it by all means.

If you have subscribed money for the church don't delay in sending it to brother J. C. Cassell, 715 Arch St., Philadelphia, Pa. If you haven't subscribed any begin to consider how much the Lord would have you give, accordingly as he has prospered you, and send to Brother Cassell.

R. W. CASSADY.

### Chicago Mission

We know that all our readers are very glad to hear what is being done in our missions. I recall very well that when I was pastor of a church and living in the country, when the EVANGELIST came, I turned thru it first to see what was being done in our missions. I well knew that it was in the little missions that the work hardest to perform was to be found, and it was in them the hope of the future lay. And in my travels thru the country among the churches in this district, I find that nearly every body that is interested in the work of the church, tell me that the first thing they look for when the beloved EVANGELIST comes, is the report from the missions. It is but natural that this should be so, for to the thoughtful, it is known that the success of the missions is indicative of the blessings of God, and the power of the church we love for good in the future. When you are surrounded by a strong congregation of believers of like faith, you do not just understand how you would feel, if you were going forth to work almost single handed, meeting with but few who have ever heard the doctrine you love, and many who scout all phases of religion, teaching every phase of the faith, doctrine and practice. But then there is in this work, the example of Jesus and the promise of the Father, i. e., it is the real work God has given the church to do. It is altogether too common a thing to see one who has been a member of the church and connected with a good, strong congregation, that if they move away to some locality where there are but few members, or none compromise their faith, and express desire to affiliate with, and for the purpose sanction teachings, that they know to be not according to the gospel. My brother, wher-